

SACRAMENTO RIVER CONSERVATION AREA

c/o California Department of Water Resources
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SRCA NOTES

March, 2001

FEBRUARY 15 TAC MEETING

Chairman Dan Keppen opened the meeting and introduced Burt Bundy, Manager of the SRCA, who updated the committee on several activities. He discussed the upcoming meeting on February 27 in Hamilton City to report on the progress of efforts by the Corps, Glenn County, The Reclamation Board, and others. There has not been a lot of progress on the situation at the Llano Seco/M&T pumps. The support from all agencies has been very good but the process may have been slowed somewhat because of the number of projects CALFED is currently managing. Burt noted the SRCA is also working with the Dept. of Fish & Game and others to facilitate a restoration project near Moulton-Weir, approximately 106 acres purchased by the Wildlife Conservation Board in 1991. This was pulled off the WCB's February agenda to allow more time for public input.

Burt discussed the draft language on Reach 1 and Stacy Cepello from Department of Water Resources discussed the alternative definitions, and evolution, of the current language. Burt noted that a public meeting will be held in the area before the definition is brought to the Board. Burt opened the discussion on Reach 4 and a question was raised as to whether or not it would exclude the bypass area; the assumption is that it would but will look at the language and see if that needs to be clarified. The Chairman noted that the January meeting held in Meridian to discuss Reach 4 demonstrated the real fear held by many about setback levees. Tom Ellis gave a presentation to the TAC on several issues of concern to him as a landowner and water user; included were debris in the River, and references to setback levees in the Handbook. It was noted that setback levees are the norm above Colusa, and the Handbook only references setback levees as a "tool" to be considered along with rip-rap and habitat planting in considering alternatives for river management.

It was noted that Glenn and Colusa Counties are looking at requiring property to be rezoned if it is going to be sold for habitat restoration; the question was raised as to whether or not the SRCA should get involved. Burt noted they don't usually get involved in land use issues, but will bring it up to the Board.

FEBRUARY 22 SRCA BOARD MEETING

The county review process was held over to the March meeting because of the absence of some of the Board members. A motion was passed to establish an Executive Committee made up of 7 members to review items between meetings. Language about placing items on the agenda was accepted that would require it to be presented to the Manager or Chairman at least two weeks prior to the scheduled Board meeting; the Chairman would then confer with the Manager as to the makeup of the agenda, and determine the items to be scheduled. The election of SRCA Board officers was set for June, 2001.

Burt Bundy reported on a meeting to discuss alternative funding for rock work needed at Woodson Bridge. He also reported on a tour he took recently in the Tisdale Weir area with Lu Hintz, Dick Akin, Ben Carter, and others.

Dan Keppen reported on the February 15 TAC meeting. He noted that in addition to the fears expressed concerning setback levees, there also seems to be a great deal of confusion as to the Inner River Zone versus the Conservation Area. Many felt that education is the key. It was noted that the Comp. Study will be holding meetings in the area and that the SRCA could assist with outreach and work with them to coordinate meetings. Sam Lawson, The Nature Conservancy, updated the Board on land acquisition south of Hamilton City. Barney Flynn, Sacramento River Partners, discussed a project for restoration of riparian habitat on Cottonwood Creek in Shasta County.

Mark Charlton, COE, noted that Information Paper #1 will be out in March and the Comp. Study Team will present its findings to the Board at the March meeting.

A motion was passed to name the California Wildlife Foundation as beneficiary should the nonprofit organization dissolve. Naming a specific beneficiary is required by the IRS when applying for tax-exempt status.

SRCA NOTES UPDATE

The February 27th meeting was held in Hamilton City with approximately 30 people in attendance. Bill Paris, Hamilton City Community Services District, opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. Tom Tinsley, former Director of Glenn County Public Works gave a review of Glenn County/HCCSD activities. Sue Fry from the Corps of Engineers gave an update on the status of both the Section 205 and Comp. Study, noting that Hamilton City is considered one of the Comp. Study's strongest Initial Projects. Pete Rabbon, General Manager of the Reclamation Board, gave a brief overview of their role in this process. Sam Lawson from The Nature Conservancy discussed their acquisition and restoration strategy over the last 20 years. Burt Bundy, Manager of the SRCA, spoke briefly on the four reaches and their differences and then introduced Mike Roberts from TNC for a sub-reach planning discussion. Another meeting was scheduled for the same location on April 16th at 8:30 a.m.

SACRAMENTO RIVER CONSERVATION AREA BOARD MEETINGS

The Sacramento River Conservation Area Board will meet on **March 29th** at the Willows City Hall, Willows, Ca. at 4:00 p.m. Future meeting dates were scheduled as follows: April 26th, May 24th, June 28th, and July 26th. (Locations TBD)

The next TAC meeting is scheduled for **March 22nd** at the Fish & Wildlife Office, 10950 Tyler Road, Red Bluff, Ca. at 10:00 a.m.

OTHER ACTIVITIES/UPDATES

The Biodiversity Council will meet in Chico March 14th and 15th.

The Corps of Engineers announced the Feather River and Yuba River Reach Flood Control stakeholders meeting will be held March 29 in Yuba City from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Location TBD). The Sacramento River Environmental stakeholders will meet March 22 in Chico from 1-4 p.m. (Location TBD)

Ramon Vega from the National Wildlife Refuge noted that as of March 1 Packer Lake will be open to the public for fishing.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. How will the Sacramento River Conservation Area affect public access?

A. The SRCA does not advocate a change in public use along the Sacramento River. The overall goal of the SRCA is to “preserve remaining riparian habitat and reestablish a continuous riparian ecosystem along the Sacramento River between Redding and Chico, and reestablish riparian vegetation along the river from Chico to Verona”. The wording within the Handbook recognizes that “the entire river ecosystem and the humans within it”, includes a multitude of uses including: agriculture, recreation, and habitat for wildlife. We understand that with more public land ownership, there must be a public benefit derived from the expenditure of public funds. The definition of the public benefit will be determined by the respective land holding agencies through a management planning process that includes very extensive public input. The agency may determine that the greatest public benefit to specific properties is best accomplished by excluding or limiting public access, or they may decide that extensive recreational enjoyment may be the best public use. The SRCA will help provide a forum for that discussion and insure that all sectors are informed of opportunities for comment.



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